



STATE SENATOR
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IN THE LOOP ★

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**Townhall at the Summit, in Canton, well received;
Health Savings Accounts cut costs, extend coverage**

The townhall meeting at the Summit, in Canton, on Wednesday, May 18, was attended by about 40. There were enthusiastic responses from many to the two featured speakers. Sen. Patterson hosted, while Dr. David Janda, of Plymouth, and Mike Glaab, Certified Financial Planner, were the speakers.

The special meeting was devoted to Health Savings Accounts and how they can help you and your business cut costs while maintaining, or improving health coverage. Plans are under way to hold a similar meeting elsewhere for those unable to attend the first.

This subject relates to two bills Sen. Patterson has introduced, **SB 197** and **SB 198**.

You may like to refer to the Detroit News editorial of April 14:

<http://www.detnews.com/2005/editorial/0504/14/A15-149602.htm>

This also appeared in the Plymouth and Canton Observers.

Grosse Île Island Festival Parade

Sen. Patterson will be on hand on Saturday morning, June 4, for the annual Island Festival Parade on Grosse Île. "This is always a parade I look forward to. I admire the spirit of the Grosse Île Festival. I look forward to seeing my Grosse Île friends there this weekend."

The website for the Festival is < <http://www.grosseileislandfest.com/Paradex.html> >.

Sen. Patterson enjoyed being part of Memorial Day weekend parades in Trenton, Sumpter Township, and Plymouth. The crowds who turned out for the parades were blessed with good weather.

“Grandpa” is the best title of all

On Tuesday, May 24, Tannis Shay Patterson was born to Jessie and Justin Patterson at Saint Joseph’s Hospital, Ann Arbor. Her birth made Sen. Bruce and Phyllis Patterson grandparents for the first time.

“I have been a Senator for over two years, and a Representative for another four before that, and a Wayne County Commissioner, too; but now I have my *best* title, ‘Grandpa’,” said Patterson, beaming. The healthy little girl has curly blonde hair. She weighed in at 6lbs. 6oz.



Patterson speaks to Senior Nursing Class at MSU

On May 31, Sen. Patterson took time to speak to Prof. Grace Kreulen’s Community Health class. Thirty-eight senior students heard him speak on the development of his “Safe Patient Care” bill, SB 169. He also spoke on how nurses might rightly be involved in the legislative process, and some of them might become legislators themselves. They could bring their perspective and experience to the Capitol in person.

Last year, Patterson received two awards related to nursing. He was named the Michigan Nursing Association’s “Friend of Nursing, 2004”, and the Michigan Nurse Practitioners’ very first “Advocate of the Year.”

Flag Day is coming - June 14

Do you know the proper etiquette for flying the U.S. Flag? Records show that June 14, 1777, was the day the Continental Congress authorized “a new Constellation,” and commissioned Betsy Ross to sew the first American Flag. Flag Day was established as a national observance by President Wilson in 1916. Red stands for hardiness and courage, White is the symbol of purity and innocence, and Blue is the color of heaven, vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

You can visit Sen. Patterson’s website for details on flying the Flag in various places, at different times. Go to <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/patterson/> and click on the Flag Display.

SB 533 now pending before Senate.

SB 533 would create a Strategic Economic Investment Bond Fund within the State Treasury. The Bond Fund would contain the proceeds from the proposed sale of \$1.0 billion in general obligation bonds, contingent upon passage of Senate Joint Resolution C (SJR C) by Michigan voters, amending the State Constitution to authorize sale of these bonds.

The Strategic Economic Investment Board would allocate \$60.0 million to capitalize the Michigan Forest Finance Authority’s Forest Development Fund and spend the remaining proceeds from the bonds for grants and loans to develop competitive edge technology with the potential to provide jobs in Michigan. Competitive edge technology would be in the areas of life sciences technology; advanced automotive, manufacturing, and materials technology; homeland security and defense technology; and alternative energy technology.

The bill would permit the Board to spend funds for basic research, applied research, university technology transfer, and commercialization of products, processes, and services. In awarding grants and loans, the Board would be required to establish a competitive process. The process would include peer review by independent experts based on the scientific, technical, and commercial merit of the application, a preference for Michigan-based applicants, a requirement for significant activity in Michigan by any company based outside the State, and preference for projects that would create jobs within Michigan. Grants could be awarded only to Michigan institutions of higher education or Michigan nonprofit research institutions. Allocation of the bond proceeds would be made by the Strategic Economic Investment Board.

Income from the sale of forest products from State tax-reverted land and on other land in the State forest system. At least 50% of the remaining funds would be allocated for life sciences technology.

Such an endeavor has been touted as a way to stimulate Michigan's economy and create jobs. Do you agree?

Please send us your answer, _____ Yes _____ No, and any additional comments. Thank you.

What do you think?

Will a bond issue be the best way to stimulate growth in a sector of Michigan's economy? Should the state government be involved in this sort of investment, which is repaid with tax money collected in the future? Should the bond issue be \$1 billion or \$2 billion? What limits and definitions ought to apply?

Non-native Species Advisory Council passes in Committee

As part of a package of bills to address aquatic invaders of our Great Lakes, Sen. Patterson introduced **SB 216** to create an on-going legislative council to advise the Legislature on this economically vital area. It was passed by the Committee this week, and now goes to the senate floor. Over 160 non-native species, from the zebra mussel to the sea lamprey, and many others, both animal and vegetal, have entered our waters through ballast discharges. The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), for the last 30 years, has chosen to ignore this problem and has consistently exempted ballast discharges from regulation. (Just what are they protecting?) Controlling the zebra mussel and sea lamprey costs about \$45 million a year.

Senate Commerce Committee hears State Poet Laureate proposal

Mr. Mono D'Angelo, president of the Poetry Society of Michigan, and a resident of Grosse Île, testified Tuesday, May 17, on behalf of **SB 181**. This bill would establish a non-salaried post to encourage the exercise of this artistic gift state-wide, whether in schools, or as a hobby, or avocation. Regional poetry festivals, like the one at Ludington, could become a drawing card for tourism. At present, 39 states have Poets Laureate. Years ago, in 1952, Edgar Guest of Detroit was given the title; but it was not continued afterwards. Sen. Patterson introduced the legislation.

"Poet" comes from a Greek word implying labor, craftsmanship and skill.

“Ones For The Road” – *Remember these?*

Some of these jingles from yesteryear might inspire your summer road trips... You can share them with kids who won't remember the colorful series of sign boards we used to see...

NO MATTER THE PRICE
NO MATTER HOW NEW
THE BEST SAFETY DEVICE
IN THE CAR IS YOU

Burma Shave

A GUY WHO DRIVES
A CAR WIDE OPEN
IS NOT THINKIN'
HE'S JUST HOPIN'

Burma Shave

AT INTERSECTIONS
LOOK EACH WAY
A HARP SOUNDS NICE
BUT IT'S HARD TO PLAY

Burma Shave

BOTH HANDS ON THE WHEEL
EYES ON THE ROAD
THAT'S THE SKILLFUL
DRIVER'S CODE

Burma Shave

Enjoy beautiful Michigan's scenery this season – safely!

Contact Information

Thank you for your interest in our current state issues. If you would like to receive future updates via e-mail, please contact my office at senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov.

You can also visit me in my Lansing office at: 505 Farnum Building, just across S. Capitol Avenue from the state Capitol; or you can send me mail at P. O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909. Telephone (517) 373-7350 or (866) 262-7307; fax (517) 373-9228. I want to hear from you.